

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-039

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 122(126)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 122(126) marks Mason and Dixon's 122nd horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, famous for its historical and geographical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone; is in fairly good condition, unaltered; is firmly set but only stands about 10 inches above ground, at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. WA-VI-039

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)  
HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, 122nd Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON  
MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 122 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 126)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off the east side of Weller Road/T-691

CITY, TOWN

Hancock

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington/PA: Franklin

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER state boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE WA-V-222 entered 2/24/81

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 122(126) marks Mason and Dixon's 122nd horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in fairly good condition, unaltered, and remains at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is part of the comparatively flat bottomland following Licking Creek valley, sparsely settled and not far from surrounding ridges and mountains (Elbow Ridge to the south and east, Keefer Mountain to the northeast, Timber Ridge to the west). The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Warren Township of Franklin County, PA; about 4 miles northwest of the settlement of Pecktonville, MD; about 5 miles northeast of the town of Hancock, MD; at a point about 200 feet east off the right-angle bend <sup>to the west</sup> in Weller Road/T-691, on the north side of an east-west barbed wire fence separating a gently sloping cultivated field on the south from deciduous woodlands and the Columbia Gas Pipeline on the north. It cannot be seen from the road, but easily from closeby along the fence, and is protected by the fence and nearby trees.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, and said to have originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4 or more feet in length, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. Presumably reset in 1902 to stand about 1½ feet high, the milestone now stands about 10 inches above ground, firmly set, and measures close to 12 inches square. The letters and circle panels are clear but chipped; most fluting remains, but only bits of the margins; there is extensive chipping along all edges and particularly the top corners; the top planes are discernible but disfigured by the chipping, <sup>are sprinkled with beautiful</sup> and blotches of lichen.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of  
**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

**PERIOD**

## REHISTORIC

1400-1499

**1 500-1 599**

**1600-1699**

X 1700-1799

**X 1800-1899**

X 1900-

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

## AGRICULTURE

## —ARCHITECTURE

ART

—COMMERCE

## —COMMUNICATIONS

## COMMUNITY PLANNING

## \_\_CONSERVATION

## —ECONOMICS

—EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

## INDUSTRY

## \_\_INVENTION

—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

     **LAW**

## —LITERATURE

MILITARY

## MUSIC

—PHILOSOPHY

X — POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

—RELIGION

—SCIENCE

—SCULPTURE

—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

## THEATER

## TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER (SPECIFY)  
boundary surveying

**SPECIFIC DATES** 1767 (reset 1902) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
~~SURVEYORS~~

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 122(126) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its <sup>and geographical</sup> historical/impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 122(126) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Cherry Run (Maryland-West Virginia-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 74972, northing 440077

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Franklin

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey 3/29/81 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

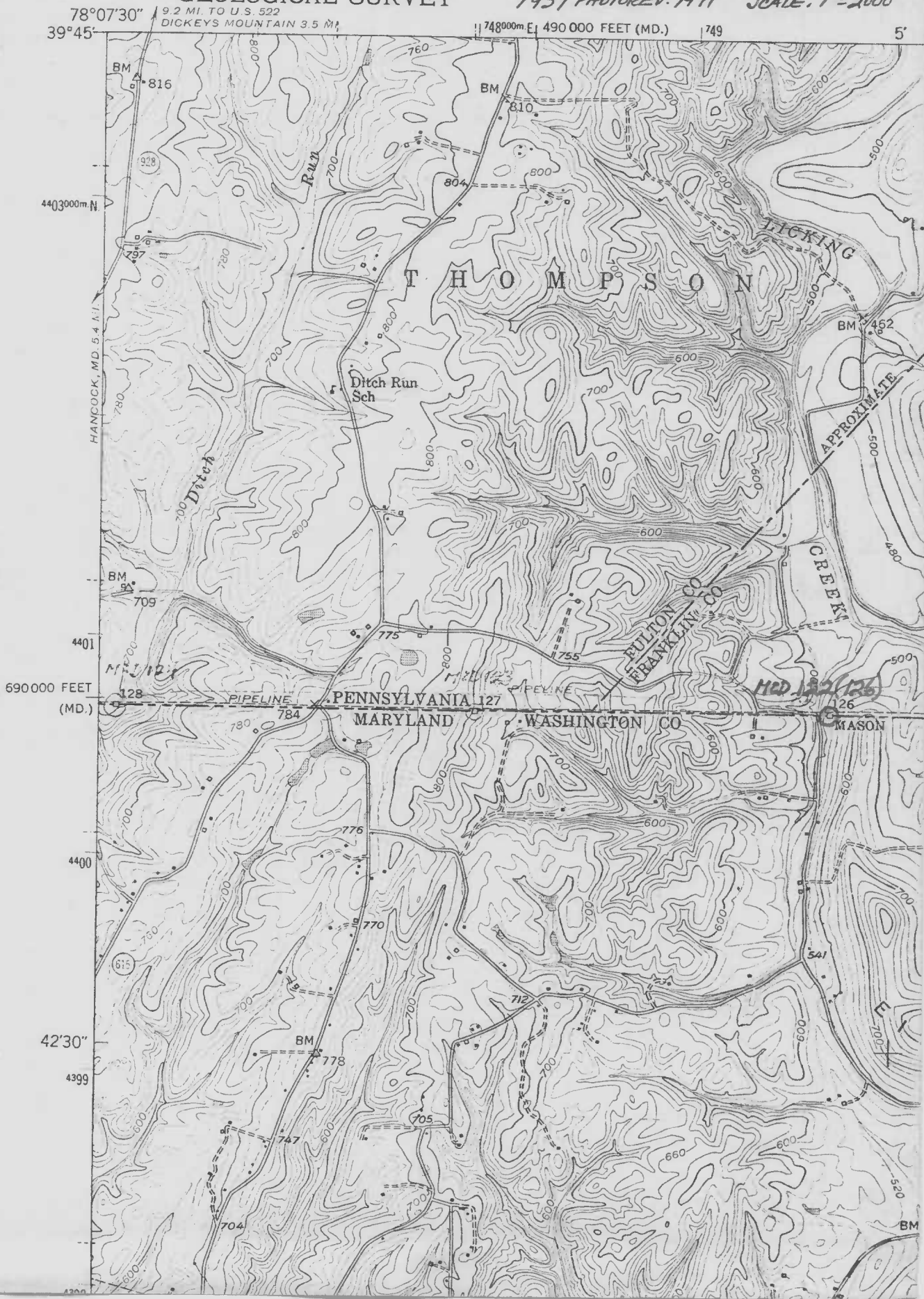


5363 / SW  
(NEEDMORE)

MDA-VI-039  
MASON EDIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE NO. 122 (126)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CHERRY RUN QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-WEST VIRGINIA-PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1951 PHOTO REV. 1971 SCALE: 1"=2000'





CHT

RIA-VI-039

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE MILESTONE 122 (126)  
SE CORNER (M/-). ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981.12.10)





MHT

WA-II-039

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE 122 (126)  
NW CORNER (P/-), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981-14-12)